

International Mother Earth Day 2020

The Andean Worldview

For Latin America, veneration of Mother Earth has deep roots that go back to the Inca, Mayan and Aztec indigenous cultures. The events of the last generations, including civil wars and the exploitation of the land for commercial interests, have marked not only Mother Earth but also her people.

The land we inhabit. "Mother Earth" is a common expression used to refer to planet Earth in various countries and regions, demonstrating the interdependence between human beings, other living species, and the planet we all inhabit. The Earth and its ecosystems are our home.

Celebrating this date is of great importance for our Congregation, since it is closely linked to our spirituality and based on the beautiful passage of Psalms 23: *"Yahweh is my Shepherd, he feeds me through fresh grasslands. Towards the still waters it leads me, and comforts my soul; he guides me along paths of justice, in grace of his name..."* (We take time to contemplate the complete psalm and sing it.)



A BIBLICAL INSPIRATION: Our journey through Genesis 1

- ✚ *"In the beginning God created heaven and earth"* (1:1). This is the beginning of our human history and the history of our common home. This beginning is pure, absolute grace, a gift from a God who gives us existence through love without measure. Therefore, within the work of creation, we have a place: the earth.
- ✚ *"The earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss"* (1:2) Through the act of creation, the Chaos becomes "Cosmos."
- ✚ *"God saw that it was good."* (1:25). This is what God affirms every day, after unfolding the work of creation. Thus, it is possible to perceive the sacred character of Life.
- ✚ *"Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness"* (1:26). The likeness to God is an exclusivity of the human being. We are part of the universe, reflections and images of each other and of all creation.
- ✚ *"Fill the earth and subdue it"* (1:28) The shepherd performs this action by leading the flock, protecting it, leading it to good pastures, with the aim to unite and make sense of what is dispersed and disconnected. The role of the shepherd or the just king is not arbitrary and unrestrained submission.
- ✚ *"God rested on the seventh day"* (2:2). The Sabbath of the universe, divine rest, becomes human rest and rest for the earth: "the land shall have a sabbath of complete rest" (Leviticus 25:4).



Personal reflection: What is the relationship that you find between the redemption of nature, as a divine work, and spirituality and charism? What do you COMMIT yourself to?

Let us pray this song and make a pact with the Pachamama

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO THANK OUR GOD.

To start the day, we fill ourselves with your light, and at the end of the day, you do not stop illuminating us. May the fire that we have never extinguish to love you, Mother, to take care of and respect you for living and growing.

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO PRAISE OUR GOD.

Pachamama, good Mother, destroyed, without love, with your battered soil, and clouded river. There are no more forests - there are cities with cement and solitude.

Forgive us mother, for our forgetfulness. Mother Earth, to you we must return.

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO FIND OUR GOD.

You offer us, from your womb, the gifts of our God, our crops and works that you take care of with love. Today these gifts do not reach everyone, and they are not sufficient to live. Give us, Mother, new incense that makes sharing holy.

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO PRAISE OUR GOD.

Pachamama, Mother, friend, companion on this journey, I am your child - a settler, from the farming land - without work and without justice, without protection and without warmth. The time comes, Pachamama, to proclaim freedom.

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO FIND OUR GOD.

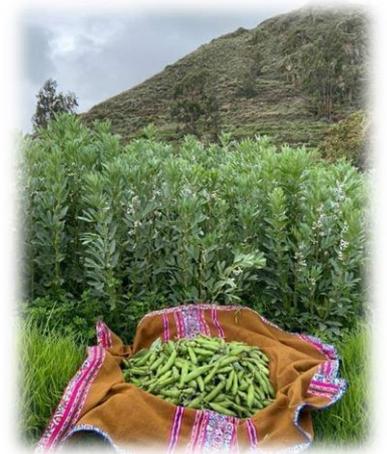


Pachamama, those of us who are close to you love you. We sing and dance, our hearts together. I do not forget my people, I do not forget my country. The time comes, Pachamama, to live in friendship.

MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, WE COME TO SING TO YOU,
MOTHER EARTH, PACHAMAMA, TO THANK OUR GOD.

Video of the original song (in Spanish)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uSegsNx368>

Eduardo Salas A. (2001) Perú





Cosmic Euphrasia and Aguchita

“Our soul is similar to a small cultivated garden, which has to be watered continuously, so that the plants of the virtues grow and multiply, and so we are able to later collect precious fruits and fragrant flowers. Do not ignore that a field is watered with more or less work, according to its conditions” (Conf 12)



“Our Congregation is similar to a gigantic tree that spreads its branches throughout the universe and welcomes thousands of people who come to take shelter under its protective shadow. You “through the practice of virtues will be similar to those trees planted by the waters, which always retain their greenery, never lose their leaves and bear fruit in good time.” (Conf. 13; cf Ps 1,1-3) Our Congregation will always be similar to a tree planted next to the water’s edge, spreading its branches loaded with leaves, flowers and fruits everywhere.” (Conf. 68 cf Ps 122)



Memory of the Commitment to Creation

Aguchita: "The reality of spiritual life is a continuous imitation of the Lord, our model; because he has felt tiredness, thirst, pain, hunger ... the disciple cannot be more than the Teacher... May our life be like the light of a candle that illuminates!" *(We walk with you, Aguchita, 2018)*

Psalm - Exhortation to creation, to praise the Creator

God of every living being who grows and moves on the sacred Earth.

We are formed by Christ to be his people,

Called to bring a wonderful light to the world.

You have entrusted us with the care of the Earth that you created.

Help us to love and respect her, to repair what we have damaged, to take care of what you have made good and holy.

Give us wisdom and passion to change our minds, hearts and customs.

May we be mustard seeds in our world.

May ecological conversion grow and spread to every corner of the Earth,

For our wellbeing in the present and for all future generations. Amen.



Prayer prepared by the Province of Peru